

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 23.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 20, 1861.

It is with pain that the Secretary of War announces to the service the loss of a distinguished veteran officer, the late Surgeon General THOMAS LAWSON, of the Army, who died at Norfolk, Va., on the 15th instant.

Having in 1811 resigned from the Navy, where he had served two years, Dr. LAWSON passed immediately into the Army,—a service with which, from that time, he has been uninterruptedly connected. Full of a military fire, which not even the frosts of age could quench, and of a zeal for the honor of his profession, which made his administration of the Medical Department a model of inflexibility, efficiency, and economy, he never spared himself, and was always prompt to volunteer his services wherever they might be required.

Thus, after having gone with credit through the war of 1812—'15, he was one of the first to hasten with General Gaines to the relief of our forces in Florida; and, having been placed at the head of a regiment of volunteers by the suffrages of the gallant Louisianians who composed it, he acquitted himself with much credit in this new sphere of duty, and proved himself an able and effective Colonel.

In fact, so marked were the military traits in his character, and among these, especially, his personal intrepidity, that at the close of the Mexican war, he was rewarded for his services in it, by a Brevet of Brigadier General in the Army.

As an appropriate tribute of respect to his memory, there will be fired at every military post, on the day after the receipt of this order, eleven minute guns, commencing at meridian,—and the National flag will be displayed at half-staff from the same hour until sunset of the same day; and for thirty days the prescribed badge of mourning will be worn by the officers of the Army.

BY ORDER:

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:

Assistant Adjutant General.